

Appl. No. 10/056,060

Reply to Office Action of: May 4, 2005

REMARKS

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for reviewing the present application.

Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's indication of the allowability of claims 40 and 48 if rewritten in independent form. As set forth below, claims 31 and 41 are amended to include the subject matter of claims 40 and 48 respectively, along with intervening claims thereby placing the claims submitted herewith in condition for allowance.

Amendments to the Specification

Paragraph [0004] of the specification as published is amended to correct typographical errors.

Paragraph [0011] of the specification as published is amended consistent with the new claims added in the previous response.

No new matter is believed to have been added by way of these amendments.

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 31 is amended removing the characters "(d)", "(k)" and "(Q_b)", and to incorporate the subject matter of claim 40 and intervening claims 32 and 36. Accordingly, claims 32, 36 and 40 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 33 is amended changing its dependency to claim 31 in view of the cancellation of claim 32.

Claim 34 is amended to remove the characters "(d)" and "(Q_b)", and to correct a typographical error.

Claim 37 is amended changing its dependency to claim 31 in view of the cancellation of claim 36, and to replace "shared key" with "secret information".

Claim 38 is amended to replace "shared key" with "secret information".

Claim 41 is amended to correct several typographical errors, and to incorporate the subject matter of claim 48 and intervening claims 42 and 44. Accordingly, claims 42, 44 and 48 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 43 is amended changing its dependency to claim 41 in view of the cancellation of claim 42.

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Claim 45 is amended changing its dependency to claim 41 in view of the cancellation of claim 44, and to replace "shared key" with "secret information".

Claim 46 is amended to replace "shared key" with "secret information".

No new subject matter is believed to have been added by way of the above amendments.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 31, 32, 34, 36-38, 42 and 44-46 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph for being indefinite.

Claims 32, 36, 42 and 44 are cancelled, thereby rendering the rejections thereto moot.

Claims 37, 38, 45 and 46 are amended replacing "shared key" with "secret information" as indicated above. Therefore, claims 37, 38, 45 and 46 are submitted to comply with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Claims 31 and 34 are amended to remove the characters "(d)", "(k)" and "(Q_b)" where applicable. Therefore, claims 31, 34 are believed to comply with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicant advises that notwithstanding the above amendment, such characters were not included to narrow the scope of the limitations.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 31-39 and 41-47 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,600,725 to Rueppel et al.

As indicated above, claims 31 and 41 are amended to include the subject matter of allowable claims 40 and 48 respectively (and intervening claims 32, 26, 42, 44), thereby rendering the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) moot.

Summary

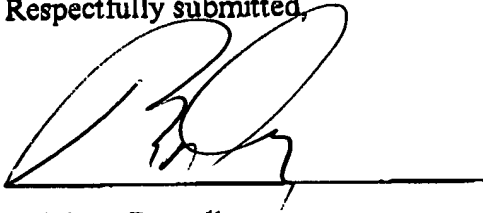
In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 31 and 41 have been amended to include the subject matter found allowable by the Examiner, and to overcome the various other rejections, and as such claims 31, 33-35, 37-39, 41, 43, and 45-47, which remain in the present application, are in condition for allowance.

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Applicant requests early reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



Ralph A. Dowell
Agent for Applicant
Registration No. 26,868

Date: 10/27, 2005

Suite 406
2111 Eisenhower Ave
Alexandria, VA 22314
703 415 2555- Telephone
703 415 2559 - Facsimile
dowell@dowellpc.com e-mail
000293 Customer No.